

Tina LaPorte

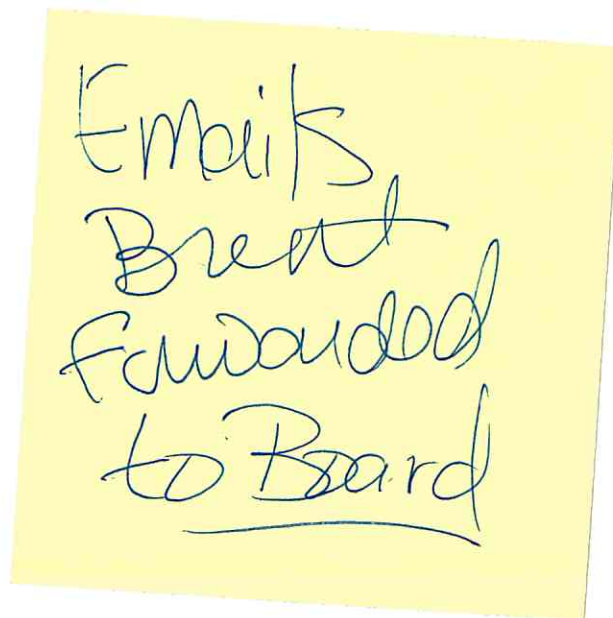
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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:10 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Name

FYI

**From:** Sherry Lyons <sherrylyons1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:40 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Name

Dear school board member,  
Please revisit the issue of the school name. Removal of the word Indian validates the harassment and bullying from the "changers" side. The word Indian is integral to Skowhegan and the surrounding communities. I ask that the word Indian be resurrected and allowed to adorn our schools once again. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Sherry Lyons



Emails  
Brent  
Forwarded  
to Board

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 1:52 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Screenshot 2019-03-13 at 10.28.46 AM

FYI

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**From:** Hope <hopesavage@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 1:34 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Screenshot 2019-03-13 at 10.28.46 AM

Dear Mr. Colbry,

This is unacceptable behavior for a seated board member. Her role, that she agree to upon taking her seat, is to support the decisions of the board and not actively work to undermine them. I am appalled at the lack of ethics here.

Note, I have no problem at all with community members continuing to petition for the return of the mascot. It is their right and I support their rights.

Will Ms. Poirier's unwillingness to abide by board decisions be addressed by the board? I would appreciate a reply.  
Thank you.

Thank you  
Hope Savage  
Skowhegan



U.S. Cellular LTE

7:53 AM



Search in SKOWHEGAN

Discussion

Chats

Announcements

## Announcements



Jennifer Pelotte Poirier



Admin · 11 mins ·



### CALL TO ACTION

1. Circulate petitions – In order for t  
effective, we need to gather thousa  
All signitures must be residents of  
If you are able to volunteer and col

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Hillbilly Houghton <rachaelahoughton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:**

I am writing this letter in regards to the Name change of our Indian Mascot. I live in Skowhegan and have 3 boys that attend MSAD 54 school district. I am asking you please allow the Community to Vote on this matter fairly as it was not done fairly with just the board members being able to vote. Our Community has the right to our side and opinion as well. We also deserve to be heard and Vote as well. This is about our towns Heritage not a racial issue. Our children also, should NOT be disciplined for wearing Skowhegan Indian attire. Its ridiculous.

Thank you,  
Indian Pride.  
Rachael Houghton

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 2:27 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot

FYI

**From:** Tracie Austin <tracaustin1983@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:16 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Poirier <jenniferpoirier@msad54.org>; Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>; Christy Johnson <christyjohnson@msad54.org>; dixiering@mdsd54.org; Goff French <gfrench@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Mascot

I am emailing you folks to express my feelings.

I live in Smithfield and feel this should have been taken care of much differently. This whole towns voice was heard through 2 people, one who I am proud to stand behind Goff French one I am not Christy Johnson.

My 10 year old son is devastated at this he is an avid sports player who has watched the Skowhegan Indians since he was born and many idols graduate along with his father and I as a Skowhegan Indian.

This is not over and needs to be voted on as a district and the children should have a vote in the district schools. This is ridiculous. No survey was taken to hear the towns people's.

Let's bring this up again !!

Thank you-

Smithfield Residnet

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 12:45 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you

FYI

**From:** Danielle Tetreau <danielle.tetreau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 11:52 AM  
**To:** Dixie Ring <dixiering@msad54.org>; Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Thank you

I saw a post on Facebook recently asking people to email you and express their dissatisfaction with the recent vote on the mascot for the high school. I thought it was appropriate to send a message of appreciation instead.

While I am not a resident of the district I am an alumni of the SAHS and I want to thank you for making the decision to stop using the Indian mascot for the school. I know the debate has been contentious and at times nasty--showing a side of some people that I wish would stay hidden away forever.

I appreciate your ability to see beyond the borders of the district and understand that the mascot is harmful and not a source of pride for everyone. I hope the community can learn from this and heal together.

Thanks again,

- Danielle Dyer Tetreau (Class of 1999)

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 12:43 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan School Board Decision

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**From:** Susan Lauchlan <peacework2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 10, 2019 11:52 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan School Board Decision

Dear Superintendent Colbry,

I am very heartened by the vote of the Skowhegan School Board to discontinue the use of the "Indian" mascot. I know it must have been a difficult decision and probably feels disruptive of the school's history. However, it was a necessary move and if delayed would only have been more painful for all involved.

As we are learning, our "settler" history is full of obfuscation of the facts. And after years of attempted genocide of the indigenous peoples who were here way before the settlers arrived, they were so reduced in numbers as to be almost a forgotten story. Our history has made them all but invisible.

This is now changing as we must change and recognize the truth-telling. I believe we must also recognize our white privilege and work to decolonize our thinking. I highly recommend Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's "An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States". In fact, it would be an amazing addition to high school history classes.

I wish you, the school board and Skowhegan much compassion and joy as your community goes forward to choose a new mascot and name for the Skowhegan sports team.

Sincerely,

Susan Lauchlan  
Waldo

PS: I've been thinking about mascot names that might apply, although I know you will find your own. However, allow me to toss these out for consideration: Riverdrivers, Logjammers, Jammers, or Sturgeon. The Skowhegan Sturgeons has a nice ring to it!

"According to an old logging story, a Hollywood movie outfit came to Maine to film an epic about logging. They heard the rivermen would ride logs through sluiceways along the Kennebec River. Spider Ellis was offered \$5 to risk his life to ride a log through the sluiceway. He did it without falling off. He was then offered \$10 -- four days' pay -- to ride through and fall off in the white water. He took the dangerous ride, but didn't fall off. When asked why, he said, "I've never fallen off in my life. I find I just can't fall off one for less than \$25."

*"Prairie and prairie soils, managed in the way the buffalo people used to do it have been shown to have enormous capacity to sequester carbon dioxide. While engineers look to invent carbon sequestration technologies, the prairies we destroyed know exactly how to do it. Corn fields emit tons of carbon, while prairies store it away. The inhalation by the prairie is a breath that might save us, while the exhalation of corn fields hurries us down the road to disaster. Carbon farming and conservation agriculture hold great promise for modelling our food production after the lessons of the prairie. If we act in time."*

**Tallgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 12:41 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Indian Pride!

-----Original Message-----

From: Bonny <bonnyfolsom@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 2:41 PM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: Skowhegan Indian Pride!

So here I go again, trying to get the school board to listen. To listen to our School District Communities and our Students! When we elect someone to the school board we are electing them to work for, listen to, make acceptable decisions for our Communities and Students. They are NOT there to do any of this on their own opinions as individuals. I sat and listened to the school board members give their speeches on their opinions, none of the ones that wanted the change were doing so out of listening to what our Communities or Students wanted. They were listening to the outside our Community people and to themselves! There is a new member that was quoted as saying "Look out here I come, the Indian name is gone"! This is unacceptable! The school board are the ones to have to make this decision to change the Indian name with their voting process but myself and many many many Community People and Students need to be listened to with what is wanted. LISTEN TO OUR COMMUNITIES and OUR STUDENTS! It is your job as School Board Members.

Bonny and David Folsom  
Skowhegan

Sent from my iPad

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:23 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Please retire the name

FYI

**From:** Harriett F. Varney <hfvarney@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:50 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>; Dixie Ring <dixiering@msad54.org>; maryellencharles <maryellencharles@msad54.org>; Sarah Bunker <sarahbunker@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please retire the name

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Please retire the name  
**From:** "Harriett F. Varney" <hfvarney@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 7:43 PM  
**To:** Fran Varney <hfvarney@yahoo.com>  
**CC:**

In my opinion, the school board should vote soon on the use of the Indian name. 2015 and 2019 are four years apart. People's beliefs actually do change as new information comes to light.

I am one of many SHS students from the 1950's and 1960's who believe the name should be retired. I also know many students from the 1980's-90's, as well as recent students in the 2000's, who find the name inappropriate and offensive.

Testimonials show that Penobscot Nation and many other Native Americans in fact feel harmful effects from school use of this name.

To Skowhegan Indian Pride and its supporters, the Indian name is stated to be a source of pride and is intended to show respect to Native Americans. But we must listen very carefully to testimonials from members of the Penobscot Nation and from others who feel harmed, not respected, from the use of the Indian name.

The school board is not choosing a town's seal, name or historical symbol. The school board is responsible for providing all district students with a healthy environment for study and extracurricular activities. Sadly, too much rhetoric spoken and written in the course of this long discussion has been the opposite of healthy.

Adults - parents, friends and board members - should be healthy role models to our area students and to students throughout the state.

With all the publicity recently on this matter, newly elected members are very well informed. The fact that they chose to seek election shows they have a serious interest in local education.

Please listen to the recent priority notice of the Maine Dept. of Education, as well as to the statements of the Penobscot Nation, the American Psychological Association, the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, the Episcopal Committee on Indian Relations, and the Bangor Chapter of the NAACP.

Please retire the name.

Thank you for listening.

Harriett 'Fran' Varney, Class of '61

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:40 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot debate

FYI

**From:** Gail Leiser <gail.leiser@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** Gail Leiser <gail.leiser@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Mascot debate

As a fellow Mainer, I kindly ask that you do everything within your power to retire the Skowhegan Indian-themed mascot.

Change is hard. It's especially hard when those being asked to change believe they have been wrongfully accused of bad behavior. But change is inevitable. And we as a society now recognize and understand that things we once thought completely acceptable from one perspective might not be so acceptable when looked at from other viewpoints.

All of Maine is watching your community. All the country is watching Maine. Please look to the future and do the right thing by choosing a new mascot to represent your school.

--

Gail Leiser  
207.288.9083 (h)  
207.288.9706 (w)

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:58 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Indians.

FYI

**From:** Pat Daniels <pat6home@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:56 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan Indians.

I wish to have the Indians remain the Indians .!! I see no reason why we need to change.  
All of my children and myself have been a Skowhegan Indian !!!!  
Pat Daniels

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:53 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: "Indians" Nickname

fyi

-----Original Message-----

From: Irene <poilsylvain.is@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:51 AM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: "Indians" Nickname

Dear Mr. Colby and Members of the MSAD54 School Board:

My husband and I are writing in favor of keeping the nickname "Indians" for the Skowhegan Area High School sports teams and school in general. We do not have an issue with this nickname. We are both graduates of Skowhegan High School in years past.

In fact we see that if it is changed, there could be other changes in the future that could bear upon the Town of Skowhegan and its stationery used, the Skowhegan Indian located in the parking lot near Variety Drug and given to the Town of Skowhegan by the artist Bernard Langlais who had family ties to the town, the stain glass window located in the Municipal Building located on Water Street in Skowhegan. And I'm sure there are other areas that might be affected as well if a person was to ponder the issue.

Please consider these ponderings among others when discussing this issue on your agenda at this week's school board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts.  
Paul and Irene Sylvain  
Skowhegan

Sent from my iPad.

Irene

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:39 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

FYI. Here is one I missed. Thanks Brent

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**From:** Maulian Dana <Maulian.Dana@penobscotnation.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

Good Morning Superintendent Colbry,

I will be at the meeting tonight to speak about the mascot issue and recommend the removal. I will heavily reference the linked document as factual evidence of the need for the removal. This is a report by Ph. D Micheal Friedman that outlines the scientific data and calls for the removal of all Indian mascot usage based on the harm to Native Americans and society as a whole.

I realize that this issue has caused a lot of pressure on your board's time and resources and I appreciate the attention that you continue to give it. As you can very well see this is not going to go away and there are legal options that many are pursuing should a vote either not be entertained or the 2015 decision upheld. I would caution you to the fact that board members are engaging with Native American Guardians Association and appear on social media posing with their members in Skowhegan. NAGA is not a tribal organization and all the members are of questionable backgrounds and Mark Onewolf who is pictured many times with Jennifer Poirier has been found to have no tribal affiliation as Ms. Mitchell pointed at your forum out it is crime in Maine to claim to be part of a tribe when you are not. I find it ironic that part of the argument against changing the mascot is that the tribes of Maine are "outsiders" but you have board members cohorting with an out of state group that they know nothing about and a group that has never successfully kept a racist mascot in an institution.

Thank you as always for allowing me the time to speak and share the experience of my Nation with you. I look forward to resolution and I hope the board takes the time to read the data I am providing. I will highlight the most relevant sections later at the meeting.

Maulian

**Maulian Dana**  
**Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador**

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:37 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Vote

FYI

**From:** Sherry Lyons <sherrylyons1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:35 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Vote

Dear board member,

I write this letter to you in hopes you strongly consider moving the name vote to a community vote. I have talked, and heard from, many people that feel it is time the voters get their say. Our taxes pay for the schools, let us vote! This non binding action would help ensure the representatives are truly the voice of their community.

Thank you for your time. Sherry Lyons

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:32 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: retire the mascot

FYI

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**From:** lizzyhayes <lizzyhayes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:49 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** Dixie Ring <dixiering@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** retire the mascot

I'm writing as someone in the community who feels that the only course of action is the removal of the Indian mascot. The unwillingness of the board so far to do the right thing puts the students in an uncomfortable position watching administrators disregard and disrespect the native people of Maine who are unified in their request. It is embarrassing to me as a member of the community that there are people fighting against this change, instead of demonstrating grace and modesty. please respect the request to leave the Indian mascot in the past and move forward with a mascot that is not divisive to our community.

respectfully,  
- Lizzy Hayes

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:28 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Native American Mascots

FYI

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**From:** Leo Shea <lsshea@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 4:14 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Native American Mascots

Dear Superintendent Colbry,

I write you in support of eliminating the use of Native American mascots. I am extremely pleased that the DOE has issued a Priority Notice to this effect.

Because our schools must provide safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments, and because schools teach many lessons by example, DOE urges schools to refrain from using mascots and logos that depict Native American tribes, individuals, customs, or traditions. For information about the negative impact of using such mascots/logos:

<https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

While we recognize that DOE does not have jurisdiction over local decisions like these, we encourage schools and communities to consider the impact of promoting symbols and stereotypes that marginalize individuals or groups of people.

The DOE is working to enhance our office of Student Supports with additional staff and resources to assist Maine schools and districts in the development and strengthening of practices that promote cultural competence and reduce bias and inequity.

<https://mainedoenews.net/2019/03/01/priority-notice-maine-department-of-educations-position-on-school-mascots-and-logos/>



**PRIORITY NOTICE: Maine Department of Education's Position on School Mascots and Logos**

Because our schools must provide safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments, and because schools teach many lessons by example, DOE urges schools to refrain from using mascots and logos that depict Native American tribes, individuals, customs, or traditions. For information about the nega

[mainedoenews.net](http://mainedoenews.net)

I trust that you will do all in your power to effect this needed change.  
Respectfully,

Leo Shea, Ph.D.

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:21 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Governor & School Board // From Native American Guardian's Association // Request For Immediate Feedback  
**Attachments:** Gov Maine Request Letter 3.4.19.pdf

FYI

**From:** NAGA Guardians <nagaguardians@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 2:34 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter to the Governor & School Board // From Native American Guardian's Association // Request For Immediate Feedback

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** NAGA Guardians <nagaguardians@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 2:19 PM  
**Subject:** Letter to the Governor // From Native American Guardian's Association // Request For Immediate Feedback  
**To:** <xxxxxx@maine.gov>

Dear XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX,

Thank you for providing this email method to convey our letter.

We will share this letter with the local school board only at this time to allow you some time to best assess how you would like to proceed with the suggestions and positive opportunities spelled out in this letter. Please let us know ASAP on how you would like us to proceed.

Thank you -

NAGA



Native American Guardian's Association  
PO Box 742  
Devils Lake, ND 58301 - 0742  
[NAGAGuardians@Gmail.Com](mailto:NAGAGuardians@Gmail.Com)

March 4, 2019

Office of the Governor  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

## PROMOTE EDUCATION - NOT ERADICATION – IN SUPPORTING NATIVE AMERICAN IDENTITY

Dear Governor Mills,

I am William Brotherton, the immediate N.E. Regional Vice President of the Native American Guardian's Association (NAGA), and we are a national assembly of natives, tribal members and leaders who seek to preserve the legacy of positive American Indian names and imagery and oppose the heavily politicized effort to "ban" these symbols for the alleged benefit of Native Americans.

I wanted to bring to your attention that both of your Maine Department of Education (MDOE) studies posted on Friday in a news release rely primarily on the Mascot Resolution of the American Psychological Association's (APA) president (*who was not a psychologist*) and his primary quoted-and-cited resolution resource Dr. Stephane Fryberg.

This APA-to-Fryberg relationship is important to you and the citizens of Maine in that Fryberg's experimental method does not specifically cover the unique Skowhegan High School situation (see one evaluation here) nor does the outcome rightly anticipate the irrefutably positive academic results attained by native students at Skowhegan High School. Yet, the MDOE nevertheless published both Fryberg-centric sources without similarly offering pro-native theme research or by simply providing Maine's Native American student performance data. This data, provided in a state-wide comparative trend analysis, would easily prove or disprove the apparent wrongly assumed negative "mascot"-induced affect (as claimed by your cited authors) on Native American students at Skowhegan High School. It seems, on first check, that the positive learning environment at *Skowhegan High School - home of the Indians* - is well above average and certainly not a learning impediment as is being wrongly suggested.

More importantly MDOE's academic sources opine and insist on only one of two Dr. Fryberg-approved solutions – the one only focused on the most negative, destructive and expensive "mascot" solution. That said, NAGA would like to introduce you to Fryberg's second published solution where we believe it to be the more sophisticated, more reasonable and best choice for improving any educational setting. In her seminal work; *Of Warrior Chiefs and Indian Princesses: The Psychological Consequences of American Indian Mascots*, Fryburg argues that there are two solutions to the "mascot" problem:

***"The only way to reduce the negative impact of these constraining American Indian mascot representations is to either eliminate them or to create, distribute, and institutionalize a broader array of social representations of American Indians. The latter option would communicate to both natives and non-natives that, beyond the historically constituted roles as Indian princesses and warrior chiefs, there exist other viable and desirable ways to be American Indian in contemporary mainstream society."*** Pg 216

That said, it's not just NAGA's opinion but the majority of the Skowhegan community and rank-and-file Native Americans at large that agree that *Skowhegan High School* should unequivocally embrace the solution to... ***"create, distribute and institutionalize a broader array of social representations of American Indians"*** at the school instead of destroying a long-standing and meaningful tradition that gives most in the community their identity.

NAGA also recommends the “2<sup>nd</sup> Solution”, as other U.S. public high schools have successfully increased their native educational footprint, instead of exterminating their tradition at the behest of a politically subsidized eradication movement. Oh, and by the way, Skowhegan is Maine’s very last Native American themed public High School so much rides on how this process is played out.

Moreover, by taking this positive path, you would avoid entangling Maine in the Constitutional crisis that comes with eliminating only Native American themed schools yet does not hold the same standard to other ethnic or historic groups represented in other Maine communities such as the Caribou Vikings, Noble Knights, Fryberg Raiders, Gray-New Gloucester Patriots or Oceanside Pirates to just name a few.

As a lawyer, I’m certain you understand that U.S. Code, 42 U.S.C. §1983, prohibits Maine’s state government from unlawfully discriminating against a discrete minority group. Yet by your pre-campaign promises, your official letters and your website’s calls for ‘eradication of native themed mascots’ - and even your DOE’s posting of such one-sided reports just ahead of a community vote that you have no right to interfere with - you are singling out Native Americans as a specific class of people that should not represent Maine. Your actions could be construed as discriminatory under both the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and in Section 1983.

Finally, When Maine was part of Massachusetts. the state similarly passed legislation outlawing its citizens from embracing Native American culture. Adopting Native American cultural elements was admonished and those people who wanted to live like or even identify with Native Americans were treated with contempt by their elected leaders and suspected as traitors. Yet reviving this segregation-based policy - popular in the 1600s - would be much more complex as recent DNA research published by the Genetic Literacy Project asserts that *most who look like* “European” Americans actually carry measurable amounts of Native American DNA... so really, the question is “who really has standing in identifying as an “Indian” anymore?” Are we supposed then to revert to a kind of reverse Jim-Crow era “one-drop” standard in disallowing what could be the majority of the U.S. population to claim of native identity? Who makes that call?

We invite further discussion of these important topics and can provide *Skowhegan High School*, your MDOE and your office direct support in attaining the higher educational standards reflected in the lesser known - yet very positive “2<sup>nd</sup> Solution”.

NAGA is proud to represent the “90%” of Native Americans who have no objection to the use of native sports names when used accurately and respectfully.

Very truly yours,

/W.J.B./

William J. Brotherton

NAGA Immediate Past N.E. Regional President

Enrolled member and former councilmember of the Sokoki St. Francis Band of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (Vermont)

[NAGuardians@Gmail.Com](mailto:NAGuardians@Gmail.Com)

Visit: [WWW.NAGuardians.Org](http://WWW.NAGuardians.Org)

Copy: NAGA President

Maine School Administration District 54

Maine Department of Education

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:14 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Fwd from Betty LePage

FYI

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**From:** Kathy LeBrun <kath1469@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 7:02 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd from Betty LePage

I've been a resident of Skowhegan for 35 years. I am full blooded Passamaquody. You've heard from my oldest daughter Kathy LeBrun a few times on how we both feel.

I want you to know that I am not against or offended by the name or imagery. I would like you to keep the name Skowhegan Indians. I am proud to be from Skowhegan as I am proud to be Passamaquody. The history of this town, the name Skowhegan , the wooden statue , Skowhegan Indian name all go together.

My mother Pauline Stevens REALLY liked that we were Skowhegan Indians when we moved here in 1983.

My three daughters all attended school here and graduated, went to college and trade schools. They all have careers and are successful. One daughter is a hairdresser, one daughter designs websites and works for L.L. Bean, and one daughter is a dental hygienist.

My four grandchildren attended school here also, three graduated from Skowhegan one from Carrabec. My granddaughter has three girls and is a real estate agent in Tennessee. My oldest grandson was in the Air Force for six years. Now works for Northrup grum, is currently taking classes from Embry Riddle aeronautical University, has DoD top secret clearance and works on B2 bomber in Missouri. My other grandson build ships in Florida.

My father George Stevens was in the army he served in World War II. He was also a deacon of the Catholic Church.

My brother Knobby was in the Marines.

My brother Richard was in the Military also. Served as Tribal Governor and was a game warden until he retired.

I have a nephew who was in the Navy and is now a cop in New Orleans. And I have many other brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews who are successful that or Passamaquoddy.

I am telling you all this because it was brought to my attention that native children, in a study, do worse and have been negatively affected by a mascot/imagery.

My children and grandchildren were NOT affected at all as they all attended Skowhegan school. Mostly all of my family is doing well. Some kids and adults take the wrong path, it doesn't matter what your culture is or your background.

As of now you have myself, my mother if she was still alive, my daughter Kathy, my granddaughter and two grandsons who are Passamaquoddy and are on the census who want you to keep the Indian name and imagery. That should say something!

I am in the process of asking other family members how they feel, we all should be asked before a decision is made. A few people can not speak for all of us.

I have one sister who thought this was already settled a few years back. She had no idea this was brought up again until I told her.

My daughter and I were talking and we have a suggestion. A vote, for only people who live in and teach in the district or graduated from Skowhegan. Also all native tribes should be asked if they want to vote and if they are on the census. Each tribe has a census of all their members. We receive papers every year, due back by September 30th. These are the only people that should have a say in this matter in our opinion.

Then we can be done with this once and for all. You will have an actual count of what the native tribe people really think.

Thank you,  
Betty LePage

Any questions my email is  
[emlepage.1@gmail.com](mailto:emlepage.1@gmail.com)

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 4:00 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot

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**From:** Secha Rich <secharich@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 3:58 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Mascot

Mr. Colbry,

As a tax payer in Skowhegan, I would like to offer my opinion on the mascot issue. I firmly believe we need to change the Indian mascot! It is becoming increasingly obvious that the governor and now the DOE agree. Enough funds have been spent trying to defend an indefensible position. The professionals say it causes harm. The natives have been clear it is not an honor. Let Skowhegan be remembered as forward thinking and change it so Maine can be the first state in the nation to remove Indian mascots and imagery from our schools. "As goes Maine, so goes the nation".

If a school wanted to honor one of your children, but you knew that "honor" hurt your child's self esteem, confidence, and performance in school, would you push to keep that "honor"?

It is appalling that this has been an ongoing issue for YEARS! I am a graduate of SAHS. My identity is certainly not based on what the mascot was growing up. However, to hurt ANY student's potential by perpetuating racism and hate in this manner is a disgrace. I am embarrassed I did not realize how hurtful it was back then. I am mortified that it is allowed today knowing the harm it causes. Stop the hurt. Stop the unnecessary spending. Look out for ALL the students the way a school board should!

Secha Rich

## Maine Department of Education Provides Position on School Mascots and Logos

Because our schools must provide safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments, and because schools teach many lessons by example, DOE urges schools to refrain from using mascots and logos that depict Native American tribes, individuals, customs, or traditions. For information about the negative impact of using such mascots/logos:

<https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

While we recognize that DOE does not have jurisdiction over local decisions like these, we encourage schools and communities to consider the impact of promoting symbols and stereotypes that marginalize individuals or groups of people.

The DOE is working to enhance our office of Student Supports with additional staff and resources to assist Maine schools and districts in the development and strengthening of practices that promote cultural competence and reduce bias and inequity.

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**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Keep Skowhegan Indians name please!

---

**From:** Dennis Corson <dennis.corson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 3:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Keep Skowhegan Indians name please!

Dear Superintendent Colbry and Members of the School Board,

Where I work I can wear my Skowhegan Indians and SAHS hoodies and my new Skowhegan Indians baseball cap which I did today! I bet I had 50 people tell me they think we should keep the Skowhegan Indians name! One of the people I saw today was my old football coach Duke Albanese! Some may remember he was once education commissioner before he retired! I said hi coach! When he saw me the first thing he said was he wears the Skowhegan Indians name with pride as he always did! I said Yes sir and I always will!

This is the kind of support that tells us we are doing WRONG if we change our school name! It is our town, our pride, our history and our privilege and honor! They have ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHT to force us to change! We are honoring the Indians not disrespecting them!

Respectfully yours,  
Dennis M. Corson SAHS CLASS of 1978

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 1:21 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Please retire the mascot NOW.

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Oltarzewski <dianeolta@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 12:12 PM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: Please retire the mascot NOW.

A shrinking minority of 'Indian mascot' supporters should not be enabled to continue the serious damage they are doing, to children primarily, both Native and non-Native - as has been well-established in testimony and by professional educators and psychologists across this country. Nor should the Skowhegan school administration perpetuate this negative image that so embarrasses its own staff and student body (also well-established in testimony)! Maine is poised to become free of this anachronistic and racist behavior once and for all - please don't hold us back any longer! Do the right (and inevitable!) thing now, without further delay.

Thank you,  
Diane Oltarzewski  
Belfast

**From:** Maine Department of Education <communications.doe@maine.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** PRIORITY NOTICE: Maine Department of Education's Position on School Mascots and Logos

Priority Notice from the Maine Department of Education

[View this message in your browser.](#)



## PRIORITY NOTICE

### Maine Department of Education Provides Position on School Mascots and Logos

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<https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

While we recognize that DOE does not have jurisdiction over local decisions like these, we encourage schools and communities to consider the impact of promoting symbols and stereotypes that marginalize individuals or groups of people.

The DOE is working to enhance our office of Student Supports with additional staff and resources to assist Maine schools and districts in the development and strengthening of practices that promote cultural competence and reduce bias and inequity.



[Maine DOE Newsroom on Twitter](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 12:04 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Last nights meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy LeBrun <kath1469@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 10:01 AM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: Last nights meeting

To the board,

I spoke last night at the school board meeting.

I wish I had gone last to speak. I just wanted to comment on a few of Maulian's statements she made about a mascot and imagery having negative effect on Native American children.

Both of my children went to Skowhegan schools and graduated. They are both on the tribal census and hold tribal cards. My daughter Paige graduated in 06, she is a mother of 3 girls and a real estate agent in TN. My son Paul graduated in 08 with honors, he joined the Air Force at 19. He is now working full time for Northrop Grumman, taking classes from Emery Riddle and works on B2 bombers at Whiteman AFB.

You do have some Native Americans from this district who were not negatively affected or harmed by the imagery, but who excelled and have great careers and lives. I graduated here in 87, have been a hairdresser for 26 years.

I believe children learn what they live. My thoughts are that those who think our Indian name and imagery are harmful are taught that. Everyone is offended about everything now a days.

If you decide keep the name , I will stand behind you and help any way I can. This is about the whole community not just the school name. I feel like she is trying to wipe out our ancestors all over again. They need to be remembered not forgotten.

My second issue with her statement is leaving out words. When she said "Hunt the Indian " the wording was actually Hunt for the Indian. Which I was told was a statue at local business during an event in town. If you don't know all the facts or have the correct wording, it changes how you see things.

I agree you have more important issues to work on and need to put this to rest.

As of right now, I can't attend the next meeting because I work until 8 pm. I made changes to my schedule to be there last night because I felt it was very important for you to know that she does not speak for all of us.

Thank you, Kathy LeBrun

Sent from my iPhone

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 8:23 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: To peaceful resolution

**From:** Sagatiaej Morey <sagatiaej@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 2, 2019 7:29 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** To peaceful resolution

To whomever it may concern,

I am a tribal member and I grew up in the Skowhegan area. The problem I am having concerning the issue of the mascot, is that using our race next to animals and titles dehumanizes our race. This propaganda has been used against us to justify countless inhuman acts and discrimination as well as the massacre of our people and it is quite apparent that it is still effective. When Nichole Lachapelle compared us to animals, she is not alone because propaganda like this is designed to do exactly that. It is intentional and it is effective. The images that make us look less than human and the way in which our race is used and extorted to do exactly that. When the US government could not enslave us, they tried to exterminate us. When they failed to do that, they tried to bleed us out by creating the blood count. When that failed, they placed us on land they thought had no value or wasn't livable hoping that we would die off on our own. It was no crime to murder us and so we were targeted. When our people die or go missing even today, it is largely ignored and buried by the news and local authorities. To convince one group of human beings to treat another group so badly, propaganda is used because by nature, when a human being sees another human being suffering, they feel a basic drive to help them. The only way to convince one group to treat another so badly, is to convince them that this other group is less than human. This is why this mascot issue is so painful to us.

First and foremost, we need to keep in mind that we are dragging children into this. If we can all just remember to have compassion and empathy for each other. I can see and understand that the children are emotionally attached to their mascot and how in their own minds, they thought no evil thing about it. This is a battle between grownups that kids have gotten caught up in and our nastiness to each other, will only hurt them. Children are not racist until they are taught to be. I can have compassion for my opposition. There is no reason why we cannot all do this from a loving place and from a compassionate place. A friend of mine, who's boys attended the school, said that they didn't think of it as anything bad when they were on the team. It made them "feel like proud warriors" and there isn't anything wrong with them feeling like proud warriors for their team and that sense of pride is healthy and good for the town. I think The Warriors would be a wonderful compromise, one that was thought up by a someone who grew up using the logo and it is his true interpretation of the mascot, which is more accurately represented using the term that describes how they feel about it.

Likewise, I am sure my own opposition could see how this could be hurting and how it has traumatized the Native people and how this might hurt a Native child who might want to play on the team - how it may feel to a Native child when they see their best friends wearing propaganda which was designed and intended to hurt our people from the start of it. We raise our children to be aware of these things so they can protect themselves.

I am sure we ALL have one thing in common... the kids come first. We ALL care about how this affects the children. There must be a reasonable compromise with them in mind. If it were up to me, I would keep the memorial with a historical message on a plaque telling about the history of the native people and the team and how people of the town came together in 2019, to make this right for the children of all races and then take the true interpretation that the children feel the mascot represents and better represent that with a more accurate description The Warriors.

This should be about the children. When people lose sight of that, everyone is in the wrong. It's traumatising for a Native child to be the only one who's race is being compared to the animals as though they are somehow lower than the other human beings. The concept of hierarchy is not a traditional concept for our people, however we've had this concept forced on us by those who want to extort us and have been victimized by it and so this matters and it hurts our children. I don't think anyone really wants to hurt any of these kids, so please keep them first and foremost in your minds regarding this topic. They see everything and they are little mirrors. We want kids to be compassionate right?

Think of all the wonderful connections people cut out of their lives, when they are taught to be racist. Our country is founded by immigrants and is a mixing bowl of cultures and races. If you are not biracial yourself in some way, your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on, are very likely to be. To hate me, is to hate some part of yourself. To cut out a group of people leads to loss of wonderful new experience and new ideas or concepts, some which can be life changing. There is a great deal of value in every individual and to cut out an entire race, is to eliminate one of the greater gifts life has to offer. We don't grow by staying exposed by the same things, but by being introduced to the new. It's tragic. It's taught. We are not born this way and I feel sorry for them. I sincerely hope, something in their life helps them regain that gift.

I write to you today, with the hope that this issue can be approached from a kind place of true humanity. Thank you for your kind considerations. All my relations.

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 8:23 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot  
**Attachments:** FB\_IMG\_1551475099529.jpg

FYI

**From:** Samantha <sammimullen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 4:25 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Mascot

Superintendent Colbry,

I'm the parent of a high school student in Bethel. I've been following the mascot issue closely as I'm hoping it will serve as a very good lesson my daughter concerning supporting civil rights and the importance of recognizing the harm that can be done without ill intent. We both attended the public forum in January.

Today I have come across this image and while I'm sure you've seen it, I want to impress how important it is to our children to see school leadership respecting the civil rights of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. I ask you to fully encourage this change to happen before legal action becomes necessary.

Thank you for your time and what seems to be your sincere concern for the students in your district. It does not go unnoticed.

Thank you,

Samantha Mullen

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 8:22 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Added feelings to keeping Indians name

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**From:** Dennis Corson <dennis.corson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 4:32 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Added feelings to keeping Indians name

When a former education commissioner supports us what more proof do we need to send the Indian Island people back home to stay and keep our name and our pride! End of discussion! It's our home, our town not theirs!

Respectfully Yours,  
Dennis M. Corson Class of 1978

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Tina LaPorte

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 5:24 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Please retire the Indian mascot

FYI

**From:** Susan Dickson-Smith <properclay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:58 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Please retire the Indian mascot

Dear Superintendent Colbry,

I had hoped to make it to the school board meeting tonight, but unfortunately, I won't be able to attend. I have written to you, and to the school board, on a couple of occasions already.

The one thing I'd like to add to my previous requests to change the mascot is my discomfort with a member of the school board bringing in the so-called Native American Guardians Association to have a private meeting with Skowhegan Indian Pride members. NAGA is infamous for urging Indigenous people to "take pride" in racist slurs like R\*\*\*\*\*s, and for claiming to speak for the majority of Indigenous people, which they clearly do not. Board member Jennifer Poirier is clearly biased, and should recuse herself from any future discussion or vote on the mascot.

Racist mascots hurt kids. They hurt Indigenous and non-Indigenous kids alike. They divide communities, and they send the wrong message to the world about Maine values. Please retire the mascot.

Sincerely,  
Susan Dickson-Smith  
Gouldsboro, ME

**Tina LaPorte**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:39 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: SKOWHEGAN INDIANS

FYI

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**From:** Natalie <knitwit@beeline-online.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 3:43 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** SKOWHEGAN INDIANS

Mr. Colbry, if you would, please distribute this e-mail to the School Board. Thank you.

I am writing this note in an effort to relate to all of you my deep concern over the possibility of a name change for our sports teams. I really consider it a non-issue and truly wish that we could see an end to all of this idiocy. It is my opinion, after much thought, that this would be Part 1 of the Danas' agenda, and that there would be more issues to come that would destroy the history of our town. We honor the Indians, and their accusations that it "bothers" them is beyond belief. Truthfully, I am surprised that Barry Dana is involved in this at all, considering his shady background.

I am a "transplant" from Amesbury, MA (home of the Amesbury Indians), having been in Skowhegan since 1959. I have put 7 children through SAHS, each one of them a proud Indian athlete. This family has been very involved with school/sports activities over the years, and that morphed into the grandchildren doing the same. Some years back, when all of this dispute started, during a discussion with my oldest son who is now deceased, Scott said to me "Mom, don't let this happen". This, then, is my attempt to honor my promise to him.

Thank you all for considering the thoughts in my heart. I am confident that you will give serious consideration to the opinions and strong convictions of the nearly 2,000 members of the Skowhegan Indian Pride group. We have tried to remain kind and non-combative, but it's truly difficult when slings and arrows are thrown at us. I'm sure everybody will be glad when all of this brouhaha is over.

Sincerely,

Natalie McCarty  
Skowhegan Resident and Voter

**Tina LaPorte**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:39 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Indians

**From:** gloria gordon <gjbord@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:55 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan Indians

Dear Mr. Colbry, Mr. Moody, and the rest of MSAD 54 School Board,

I am a Skowhegan graduate of 1972. My parents both graduated as Indians in 1948 and 1952. We were proud then and still are of our school, our heritage and our name being the Skowhegan Indians. I do not think that the name should be changed!

Our town was named after the Indians that lived here for many years. The town seal is in honor of them. It is our history. Why should it all be erased?

Let's educate and not eradicate! This issue should not be brought to the board anymore. It has been voted on and the vote should stand.

Please share this with the rest of the school board.

Thank you,

Gloria Gordon

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Tina LaPorte**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: The Skowhegan School Board and the Mascot Issue

FYI

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**From:** Susan Lauchlan <peacework2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** The Skowhegan School Board and the Mascot Issue

Dear Superintant Colbry,

As a proud generational Mainer, there is much about our state that I love. Right now however, I am deeply saddened by the refusal of the Skowhegan School Board to make the difficult, but right decision to relinquish the name "Indian" as the school's mascot. You have clearly heard from the Indigenous Peoples of Maine, as well as many, many other Maine citizens, that it is simply offensive to continue to use that name for the Skowhegan sports teams mascot.

In this day and age, there is only one way this issue can be decided, and I believe that in your heart you know this. Skowhegan has a choice, do it sooner or drag it on and do it later, but Skowhegan must let go of the use of "Indian" as the school mascot.

I respectfully and strongly urge you to use your role as the presiding officer of the Skowhegan school system to advocate for changing the school mascot name and respecting the voices of Maine's Indigenous people. To do less will be to show a complete lack of respect and will continue to shine a negative light on the good citizens of Skowhegan.

Yours in moving forward,

Susan Lauchlan  
Waldo, ME

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

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**From:** Dixie Ring <dixiering@msad54.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** Tina LaPorte <tlaporte@msad54.org>; Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

Would you please forward this to the entire board thanks Dixie

---

**From:** Maulian Dana <[Maulian.Dana@penobscotnation.org](mailto:Maulian.Dana@penobscotnation.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:47:26 AM  
**To:** Dixie Ring  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

---

**From:** Maulian Dana  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** [bcolbry@msad54.org](mailto:bcolbry@msad54.org)  
**Subject:** Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

Good Morning Superintendent Colbry,  
I will be at the meeting tonight to speak about the mascot issue and recommend the removal. I will heavily reference the linked document as factual evidence of the need for the removal. This is a report by Ph. D Micheal Friedman that outlines the scientific data and calls for the removal of all Indian mascot usage based on the harm to Native Americans and society as a whole.

I realize that this issue has caused a lot of pressure on your board's time and resources and I appreciate the attention that you continue to give it. As you can very well see this is not going to go away and there are legal options that many are pursuing should a vote either not be entertained or the 2015 decision upheld. I would caution you to the fact that board members are engaging with Native American Guardians Association and appear on social media posing with their members in Skowhegan. NAGA is not a tribal organization and all the members are of questionable backgrounds and Mark Onewolf who is pictured many times with Jennifer Poirier has been found to have no tribal affiliation as Ms. Mitchell pointed at your forum out it is crime in Maine to claim to be part of a tribe when you are not. I find it ironic that part of the argument against changing the mascot is that the tribes of Maine are "outsiders" but you have board members cohorting with an out of state group that they know nothing about and a group that has never successfully kept a racist mascot in an institution.

Thank you as always for allowing me the time to speak and share the experience of my Nation with you. I look forward to resolution and I hope the board takes the time to read the data I am providing. I will highlight the most relevant sections later at the meeting.

Maulian

**Maulian Dana**

**Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador**

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

**Tina LaPorte**

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** Tina LaPorte; Brent Colbry  
**Subject:** Fw: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

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---

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:47:26 AM  
**To:** Dixie Ring  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Mascot Meeting 2.28.19

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**To:** bcolbry@msad54.org  
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Good Morning Superintendent Colbry,

I will be at the meeting tonight to speak about the mascot issue and recommend the removal. I will heavily reference the linked document as factual evidence of the need for the removal. This is a report by Ph. D Micheal Friedman that outlines the scientific data and calls for the removal of all Indian mascot usage based on the harm to Native Americans and society as a whole.

I realize that this issue has caused a lot of pressure on your board's time and resources and I appreciate the attention that you continue to give it. As you can very well see this is not going to go away and there are legal options that many are pursuing should a vote either not be entertained or the 2015 decision upheld. I would caution you to the fact that board members are engaging with Native American Guardians Association and appear on social media posing with their members in Skowhegan. NAGA is not a tribal organization and all the members are of questionable backgrounds and Mark Onewolf who is pictured many times with Jennifer Poirier has been found to have no tribal affiliation as Ms. Mitchell pointed at your forum out it is crime in Maine to claim to be part of a tribe when you are not. I find it ironic that part of the argument against changing the mascot is that the tribes of Maine are "outsiders" but you have board members cohorting with an out of state group that they know nothing about and a group that has never successfully kept a racist mascot in an institution.

Thank you as always for allowing me the time to speak and share the experience of my Nation with you. I look forward to resolution and I hope the board takes the time to read the data I am providing. I will highlight the most relevant sections later at the meeting.

Maulian

**Maulian Dana**  
**Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador**

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DrFriedmanReport.pdf>

**Tina LaPorte**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:12 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: Name

FYI

**From:** Sherry Lyons <sherrylyons1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:20 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Name

Dear board member,

I am writing this letter to encourage you to uphold the Indian name. I know you've gotten inundated with a thousand reasons and "facts" from individuals that wish to see it gone. Please keep in mind that many of those wishing to change the name have no connection to the Skowhegan community. They are simply following the whims of an individual that wishes malice and hardship upon this community. I ask that we join together, united, and fight to keep the Indian name. Let's show our impressionable children that its ok to take a stand and follow it through. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Sherry Lyons

**Tina LaPorte**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:20 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan name issue

FYI

---

**From:** Pam Wyman <pdyman05@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:14 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>; Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan name issue

To Mr.Colbry , Mr.Moody and MSAD school board members,

I am a resident of SAD#54. I believe we should keep the Indian name. Yes, a NAME. We have no mascot. Despite what Ambassador Dana states. She does not speak for ALL Indigenous people. At past board meetings and at the latest forum we have had people come forward who are descendants of native americans from our town. Not from away. From OUR TOWN. "They have spoken how they feel the name is an honor.

They are not disrespected or offended by the Indian name. I have read and seen the disrespect and vile comments coming from the NotYourMascott movement and their followers. Its nothing but a modern day lynch mob mentality. They have labeled people who support keeping the Indian name:

Racist  
Ignorant  
Morons  
Uneducated  
Skunks  
Idiots  
White supremacists  
Skin Heads  
Maggots  
Whores

That is just some of the name calling !!

They called a supporter speaking at a board meeting " A crusty old bag "

They said a supporter who spoke at the forum was " Prostituting her drum and was appropriating their culture" ... Mind you she is of Native heritage.

This is what is the kind of talk coming from people who want/demand OUR respect. I ask... Where is THEIR respect ????

They discredit their own people. If you don't live on THE REZ... you don't matter. You are a PRETENDIAN as they like to call it.

I am tired of the threats of legal action. I am tired of the threats of boycotting our town and any business that supports keeping the Indian name.

They have mentioned all these POLLS from the APA,NCAI etc.... Opinion based polls.

I ask that you listen to our own Native American community. Their opinion in this matter should mean a lot . They live in our community and pay taxes and vote in our community.

It is time to EDUCATE and not ERADICATE.

Let us be the last school in the state that honors Indigenous people. Start teaching about the Indigenous people of this area as a required class.

My last thought.... It was already voted on and decided that the Indian name should stay.

I want to thank the SAD Board for the time and energy spent on this issue.

Pamela Wyman  
Norridgewock

\*\*\* PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS

Tina LaPorte

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:26 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: School Name  
**Attachments:** Screenshot\_20190227-093658.png; Screenshot\_20190227-093704.png; Screenshot\_20190227-093716.png; Screenshot\_20190227-093726.png

FYI

**From:** Janelle Graf <janelle.graf1967@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:44 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: School Name

I sent this letter yesterday but I had also posted it on the Skowhegan Indian Pride Wall and I feel the comments that I received are an important part of the letter.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Janelle Graf <janelle.graf1967@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 26, 2019, 2:54 PM  
**Subject:** School Name  
**To:** <bcolbry@msad54.org>

First I would like to say that I am not the best at this sort of thing but hope I can help you see what I feel.

I have spent my entire life in Skowhegan my family settled here in the 1800's as with most of us who have lived here our whole lives we have a deep connection to our town history.

I keep hearing the opposing side say we are trying to steal their name and their Heritage but, I find that to be impossible because the people who are from here own that heritage also. It is who we are. It is what we are. I do not now or have ever believed that we are harming any Native American by using this name that is who we are.

As a community we should be proud to say a horrible tragedy took place in Norridgewock in 1724 and we rose above this to say it wasn't acceptable and that we are Indians and proudly so.

I know the opposing side belittles, degrades, calls disgusting names to people who say they have Native American blood because I have read it on their Facebook wall does that not hurt and mentally harm people are proud to carry their Gene than I don't know what does.


Let me tell you a story. When I was growing up I heard constant stories from my mom that her mom my grandmother had Mic Mac blood and I was so proud not only was I a Skowhegan Indian I was a Mic Mac. I remember watching Western movies on TV and getting so mad and angry at the cowboys, settlers etc.. for their treatment of my family a child's way of thinking but needless to say I would cry and get so upset. As I grew I held on to that love and pride even though I learned more about DNA and I knew that the chances of myself having any Native blood was pretty much nill. I continued to hold it dear to me. My home and my heart were a large part of history. Then when the opposing side started their first attempts to remove the name from my home I started to listen to them to try and understand why, when they started with the bigotry and racist comments calling us Nazi's shame on them, laughing at people who are proud to share their blood no matter how little it may be.

My point is that I feel this town/school is not trying to take away anything we are trying to honor what made this Town our Home. We are passionate about or cause because it is who we are. They can say we are trying to steal it from them



but, the same could be said their side they are trying to steal it from us in which whether they like it or not is a heritage we share together as one not as two separate groups.

I always felt that teams used Native American names for sports because Native Americans had to fight to get ahead they were the underdogs fighting to rise above and so do the sports teams. It is not meant to demean it is meant to say we can rise up and overcome as they have done throughout history.

Janelle Graf

 Like

 Comment

  Pamela Pelotte Wyman and 51 others



**Sandra Hanson**

Well said. My husband, John is a Skowhegan Indian, class of 1955. He gets so upset when he hears talk of changing the name. Keep up the good work.

17h Like Reply



**Derek Chretien** 

I thought you said you weren't good at this sort of thing? Well said Jenelle.

15h Like Reply



**Julie Lessard Bourassa**

I love this!! I too am from  
Merridgewood and graduated



Write a comment...





**Julie Lessard Bourassa**

I love this!! I too am from Norridgewock and graduated from SAHS IN 1985. I also agree 100% we should keep our name! I am proud to be an "Indian" not only from my former school but also my town and former family bloodlines. To call myself and Indian is not shameful but makes me proud! If I can't call myself an Indian, by family bloodlines, Catholic, Polish, French and many more things...what can we... See More

14h Like Reply



**Debra Nickerson Merrithew**

Very well written and from the heart!

14h Like Reply



Write a comment...





**Phyllis Lapointe**

Very well said Janelle. Its time we make it clear that we are keeping our school name and proud of our Skowhegan history.

13h Like Reply



**Cheryl Merry**

Very well said Janelle I agree with everything you said. We are and always will be the Skowhegan Indians. I to have Indian blood in me my family tree has Indians in it.

10h Like Reply



**Susan Foster Barney**

Well said I too used to watch the westerns and have always been on the Indians side



Write a comment...





Posts



**Cheryl Merry**

Very well said Janelle I agree with everything you said. We are and always will be the Skowhegan Indians. I to have Indian blood in me my family tree has Indians in it.

10h Like Reply



**Susan Foster Barney**

Well said I too used to watch the westerns and have always been on the Indians side

1h Like Reply



**Sharon Fitzmorris**

Your letter touched my heart! You put into words that we can all understand and appreciate! Thank you!

1h Like Reply



Write a comment...



## Brent Colbry

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 2:34 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: "Our" Indian

FYI

**From:** Carolann Corson <cac22542co@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 12:52 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** "Our" Indian

Hi Mr Colbry,

This is my first time writing a message to you about our Skowhegan Indian. I am writing to tell you that I oppose changing our Indian name. I graduated in 1960 from Skowhegan High and back then our cheerleaders, skowdettes, band members and more wore Indian costumes. That has all been taken care of and should serve to make our opponents happy. Obviously it does not. I do not think changing the Indian name for our sports teams will make them happy either. I believe it will be a matter of time before they attack our town name and Indian logo that goes with all town business. Perhaps this should be put forth to the people in our district to vote on. This might settle the issue once and for all one way or another.

Thank you for your time,  
Carol Ann Corson

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Dixie Ring  
**Subject:** FW: Screenshot 2019-02-18 at 4.52.51 PM  
**Attachments:** Image-1.jpg; ATT00001.txt

fyi

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dorothy Small <dsmall@msad54.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 4:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>; Bruce Mochamer <bmochamer@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Screenshot 2019-02-18 at 4.52.51 PM

This on FB??

**Tina LaPorte**

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**From:** Tina LaPorte  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:47 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: My name is Kathy LeBrun (LePage), I live in Skowhegan. I am half Passamquody...

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy LeBrun <kath1469@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2019 12:20 PM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: My name is Kathy LeBrun (LePage), I live in Skowhegan. I am half Passamquody...

My name is Kathy LeBrun (LePage), I live in Skowhegan. I am half Passamquody and half French Canadian. My mother is full blooded Passamquody. We moved here during my 8th grade year, I went to high school here. My children and 2 of my granddaughters have attended school here.

I didn't want to offend any of my family so I didn't come forward before. After turning 50, and seeing young people passing lately, I decided, we don't know how much time we have left here and I want people to know how I feel about this.

Not all Native Americans are offended by the Skowhegan Indian name. It goes beyond just the school using the name, it's about the whole town in this case. I believe the seal was created in the 1920's, which is similar to the painting in the high school gym. I don't find any of this offensive or degrading. Granted there had been offensive things in the past. Which have been corrected since then.

I do love the big Indian statue in town and the paintings. I think of my grandfather George Stevens when I see the big statue, since his passing. As he was tall and his heart big. He did so many great things, He was a saint. He was also a deacon of the Catholic Church. He loved and forgave everyone, no matter what they did or said. No one can ever compare to him. Not for me anyway. I know it has nothing to do with the name. This is how I personally relate.

So one of my questions is, what will happen to the statue and paintings around town if the name gets changed? I do not feel offended and neither does my mother, Betty LePage (Stevens) she said she feels honored. I have a relative who doesn't care one way or another if we keep the name. My grandmother Pauline thought our Skowhegan Indian jackets in high school were pretty cool, this was back in 1986 or 87.

A lot of this is how you perceive things.

There is Indian hill trading post, Indian hill motel and Indian hill outfitters in Greenville, that doesn't offend me either.

I have only had one person not like me for my race and that's okay. I wasn't white and he had a few choice words, that was his opinion and I didn't take it to heart. He doesn't know anything about me. I put my big girl panty's on and finished dinner sitting across from him that day. I just choose to not be around people like that. I understand where Maulian is coming from, it's horrific what happened to our ancestors. It's also horrifying what happened to many different cultures in the past. My daughters father in law is Jewish, his ancestors were also killed by the thousands. And then there was slavery, which is also so wrong. There are many more things, but you get my point. It is the past and we can't change what happened.

There must be a compromise between Skowhegan and Not your Mascot. I think if the school board would look at adding more wabanki studies to the schools it would be a start. Then people would have an understanding of what happened in our town, surrounding towns and in our state to the Natives of this land. I believe education is key here.

I was taught as a child, that there were only good and bad people. Didn't matter what is on the outside. Even good people make bad choices, but we learn from that. Forgiveness is the one of the hardest things to do.

I'm to the point I don't get on Facebook much anymore, it seems a lot of people are attacking each other on both sides of this. And also because of politics . We are becoming divided in this nation, which is scary. I have clients who are Democrats, republican, independent, different religions, or no religion, some are straight, gay, identify as something else and from different cultures. We all have different values, views and beliefs on things. Some I have known for 20+ years. None of the above matters, we are all different but we are like family.

I would like to keep the name and my mother would also. I hope you take this into consideration as I am and she was a resident of this community. I hope this will help anyone else who feels the same but is afraid of any backlash. We all have our own opinions and should be able to share. It doesn't make you right or wrong. So everyone should stop being hateful just because someone has a different opinion than you.

Thank you for listening,  
Kathy LeBrun

Sent from my iPhone

## Brent Colbry

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: 2nd Letter to the School Board

**From:** Ginger Madore <gmadore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 2:09 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** 2nd Letter to the School Board

Greetings,

I do hope the School Board is able to see right through this latest meeting regarding the Skowhegan School mascot name Indians. I have been watching and seeing that this movement is not just from locals but from an organized group of bullies. I don't think a School Board should give in to bullying at all in any form. What does that say to our current students? It says that bullying is okay and it is not!

I have seen some posts on Facebook from other Indian groups volunteering to help and saying they generally do not mind the use of the name Indian. I just don't think you should give in and change our mascot!

This is my second letter to you all. My first letter laid out my feelings about the use of Indians and I hope you all will read our letters before making a decision. I also hope you will see that the meeting was held in bad weather and many locals were unable to attend. I live 2 hours away so making it to a meeting is impossible for me and that is why I hope you give our letters due consideration.

What really matters is that you know how the community in general feels about our mascot. Please don't let us down.

I N D I A N S, Indians, Indians are the BEST!

Sincerely,

Ginger

--

Ginger Ames Madore  
[gmadore@gmail.com](mailto:gmadore@gmail.com)

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: The Skowhegan Indian Name

-----Original Message-----

From: Bonny <bonnyfolsom@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 1:48 PM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: The Skowhegan Indian Name

Superintendent Brent Colbry and School Board Members;

I was unable to attend the meeting last night, but would like to give my thoughts on this matter. I was honored and proud to be a Skowhegan Indian graduating from Skowhegan High School in 1978, and still a resident here in Skowhegan. There have been many many generations of Skowhegan Indians, it goes back many years with no issues. So then a few years ago someone decides to make a issue out of the Skowhegan Indians! The mascot was given up, the wood Indian from the school cafeteria was given up and most all images of Indians was given up. The vote was taken and the name was to remain. This select few group are still not happy! The word Indian is what is left. It is meant to be, Proud, Respected, Honored. Our Community, our High School, everybody that has anything to do with it Love being the Skowhegan Indians. There has never been any bad, mean, or disrespect intent.

It is a shame what this world is coming to when people can take something always meant to be good and misconstrue or interpret it to be bad or negative.

Please don't give in to these people! Please keep "The Skowhegan Indians"

Thank You  
Bonny Folsom  
Skowhegan Resident

Sent from my iPad

## **Brent Colbry**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 1:32 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** Forum Last Night

Hi Folks,

I just wanted to take a minute to thank all of you for the great job you did listening last night. You where professional , attentive and polite to all who attended. I have heard many people last night and today express that sentiment. I'm sure everyone is a bit tired, I know we are due to the two 4 am wakeup calls this week as well. We'll be in touch soon about any next steps. I just wanted recognize your dedication and how serious you all take such matters. Some people may sometimes take these qualities for granted , but I don't, you are a great team to be associated with.

Talk to you soon

Thanks

Brent

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: School name and Mascot

**From:** Rebecca Williams <beckymw72@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** School name and Mascot

I graduated from SAHS in 1992. I have been all about keeping the name, until a Lady from Faitfield had an amazing idea!  
How about naming the school after a TRUE hero, Eugene Cole?  
The Eugene Cole Memorial High School.  
Just a thought. After all, he is a hero to our area 😊  
Sincerely,  
Rebecca Williams

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Skowhegan Indians

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**From:** Linda Williams <oth98@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Skowhegan Indians

Dear Mr. Colbry,

I was a graduate of Skowhegan high school in 1971. My class was the first to graduate from the then "new" Skowhegan High School. I was proud then and am still proud to say that I was a Skowhegan Indian.

If this has to go to another vote I would like to have this count as a vote against changing the name of Skowhegan Indians.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Linda Williams  
351 White Schoolhouse Rd  
Madison, ME 04950-3202

1/9/2019

Country Knitting of Maine News & Views - A magazine dedicated to machine knitting. The only magazine for knitting machines printed in the USA. Available through my website (link above) look for News & Views.

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 11:37 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Thoughts on the name change from a former student and resident of Norridgewock.

---

**From:** Morrigan Knox-McLeod <morriganm@medicalmicrosolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 11:08 AM  
**Subject:** Thoughts on the name change from a former student and resident of Norridgewock.

Good morning,

I wanted to share my thoughts and words from last night.

I thank you all for your consideration in this matter.

Good evening,

To the school board and our native leaders and all those here tonight. I thank you, for your time and your willingness to be here.

For your willingness to hear and be heard.

It occurred to me while preparing for this evening, that the board members, the tribal leaders, the native youth, the students both past and present that sit here tonight. The concerned or the outraged... we all share one thing in common.

A belief that what we are fighting for what is "right".

Each one in this room believes that they are fighting to honor something.  
We are fighting because of fierce loyalties or over opinions that hurt or threaten our way of life.

To our indigenous People this mascot, The "Skowhegan "Indian" is a daily reminder of a past they had no say in. The Costumes we wear, the chants we sing. The fake feathers in our hair. A constant reminder of all that was lost or stolen and how desperately they still have to fight.

This is not a new issue.

Dr. Martin Luther King spoke of this in his 1963 book, "Why We Can't Wait:" and I quote.

"OUR NATION WAS BORN IN GENOCIDE WHEN IT EMBRACED THE DOCTRINE THAT THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN, THE INDIAN, WAS AN INFERIOR RACE.  
EVEN BEFORE THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF NEGROES ON OUR SHORES, THE SCAR OF RACIAL HATRED HAD ALREADY DISFIGURED COLONIAL SOCIETY.

FROM THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY FORWARD, BLOOD FLOWED IN BATTLES OF RACIAL SUPREMACY. WE ARE PERHAPS THE ONLY NATION WHICH TRIED AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY TO WIPE OUT ITS INDIGENOUS POPULATION. MOREOVER WE ELEVATED THAT TRAGIC EXPERIENCE INTO A NOBLE CRUSADE. INDEED, EVEN TODAY WE HAVE NOT PERMITTED OURSELVES TO REJECT OR TO FEEL REMORSE FOR THIS SHAMEFUL EPISODE. OUR LITERATURE, OUR FILMS, OUR DRAMA, OUR FOLKLORE ALL EXALT IT."

And we say not our community? Not our Mascot? That this isn't racism?

I beg of you, It is time we hear the words of Dr. King and more importantly our indigenous brothers and sisters words. The words they will continue to speak until we hear!  
We are still hurting their people.

Both sides here tonight suffer Our communities are suffering. Our Neighbors, Our Children, Our friendships are suffering and yet we continue to hurt our neighbors and fight about a mascot name?

I ask you this, are we addressing and fighting the right battles? Is this what we are really known for. Is this what we are teaching our children?

This is a community that I have found great understanding and compassion in. It is in this very community that I have found healing, love, friendship and , understanding.

I ask that each of us here tonight see the true pain and the very real struggles within our community and within the Native American Community.

I ask that our community starts the process of healing. I ask that my community show how strong we are. I ask that my community hear our indigenous people.

Maybe it's time we teach our children something new.

I believe that we have the potential to be warriors or champions or even defenders of something far greater.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter,

Morrigan Knox Mcleod

## Brent Colbry

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:23 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody; Tina LaPorte  
**Subject:** FW: last night's forum

I wanted to pass this along as Barry Dana requested. Thanks Brent

**From:** Barry Dana <bdananativebar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 8:18 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** last night's forum

I want to personally thank you for making us feel welcomed last night. I was most impressed with you and the board's handling of the meeting. Having a moderator was a good idea. It was a long time for the board to sit as respectfully as they did. Please share this message of appreciation with the board..thank you

## Brent Colbry

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:14 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Indian Forum  
**Attachments:** INDIANforum.docx; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 11:32 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** Tom Nadeau <tnadeau@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Indian Forum

Mr. Colbry,

This came in from Mr. Nadeau to add to the letters for the Board.

Thank you,  
Jon

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tom Nadeau <tnadeau@msad54.org>  
**Date:** January 8, 2019 at 4:57:40 PM EST  
**To:** Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Indian Forum

Hello Jon,

It was suggested that I send the attached statement to you and/or Brent. I had hoped to make this statement in person at tonight's Indian Forum, but I am unable to attend. In the end, I was hoping for the school board to get a copy and read it, via email or a hard copy passed around? It doesn't need to be read aloud or anything like that at tonight's meeting. I was informed you might be able to make this happen? Please and thanks.

Tom

## Brent Colbry

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:13 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: #WeAreNotAMascot  
**Attachments:** blkbgdlogo.pdf

**From:** April Fournier <april.fournier@maine.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 6:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** maulian.dana@penobscotnation.org  
**Subject:** #WeAreNotAMascot

Superintendent and Board

My name is April Fournier, I am a member of the Dine' Nation, part of the Honághááhnii clan and raised in both the southwest and here in Maine. I'm currently a resident in Portland. I am a mother of 4 children, all students in Portland schools and all aware of the challenges Indigenous people face in our state and nationally. I am an educator and I am a community activist. I am also one of the co-founders of the first women's all-Indigenous roller derby team to compete in a World Cup event. We represented over 20 tribal nations across 3 different continents at the World Cup in Manchester UK in 2018. We developed a logo, which I have attached and I find relevant to the mascot discussion. The woman warrior depicted in our Team Indigenous logo was developed by our team of Indigenous women to represent the community that we developed. This is not a mascot. This is not a caricature. This was a representation born from centuries of strength, resilience and culture. We are a proud community and this is our representation.

The Skowhegan mascot is a caricature. It was not born of an Indigenous community, it does not represent who Skowhegan is. What is even more perplexing is that many Indigenous communities have expressed concern over the mascot image and requested it's removal. Yet the board continues to dig in their heels at making a change. Skowhegan is proud. That is admirable. But as we collaborated within our community to develop an image that embodied the spirit of our group, I would ask Skowhegan to collaborate within your community to find your identity and develop a more appropriate representation of who you are. Allow your students and families have a voice in creating something to be truly proud of.

The time for Indigenous mascots is over. We are a people. We are real and living proof of the resilience of generations all around the world. We are NOT a mascot.

Thank you for your time  
Respectfully

April Fournier

--

April Fournier  
[april.fournier@maine.edu](mailto:april.fournier@maine.edu)  
207-332-6764

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:13 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot

**From:** Linda Littlefield Grenfell <linda.grenfell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 5:26 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Mascot

I support a new mascot for Skowhegan. I was the United Methodist minister there in the '80s, and my children were born there. I have a regard and respect for Skowhegan, and am confident that the people will see through lies and choose to respect character and reject characterization.

When something is hurtful, listen to those being hurt. And be kind.

Rev. Linda Littlefield Grenfell.

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*LINDA LITTLEFIELD GRENFELL*

Wells Reserve at Laudholm, Environmental Educator and Volunteer Services

Registered Maine Guide

<http://www.wellsreserve.org/education/>

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:12 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Tina LaPorte; Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Time for Change

**From:** Sage Phillips <sagephillips8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Time for Change

Superintendent Colbry,

Before I state my reasons for why I am writing to you, I would first like to introduce who I am, and where I come from.

My name is Sage Phillips, I am eighteen years old, and I am currently a student at the University of Connecticut. I grew up in Old Town, Maine, and as a member of the Penobscot Nation, I have been involved on our tribe's reservation ever since I was a little girl. I have learned our beliefs and practices handed down from our ancestors through many of my relatives and elders, and have grown up in a community that can sometimes be hesitant to accept our culture. However, for the most part, the majority of the people are respectful to us and the Indigenous people that we are.

As a graduate of Old Town High School, I have experienced first-hand the retaliation of the removal of the school's former Indian mascot. My own classmates, *knowing* who I am, what my background is, and the tribe that I come from, have blatantly expressed their feelings towards the mascot to me. In my four years of high school, I cannot tell you how many times I heard the words "Our school would have so much more pride and spirit if we were still the Indians." They would then give examples of their ideas of "school spirit" by portraying images of students wearing headdresses, something my tribe considers sacred to ceremonies, powwows, and other spiritual gatherings, to represent their sense of pride for our school. This is the point in the conversation where I step in. My selected response is something that puts their discriminating words into perspective. For example, forget about the Indian mascot for just a second, and replace the Indians with another ethnicity or race, and then tell me if that would be an acceptable look for someone to wear with pride. I am so certain that no school board across Maine, New England, or the entire United States would ever represent their school with someone of African-American descent. Us Indigenous People are also considered a minority, and ever since Columbus reached our continent, we have been left short every single time. This motion of us requesting that you remove our people from your school's name is just a small fraction of what my people wish to see in terms of change. This issue has been nothing close to a sprint, but a marathon. In 2015 our Indigenous voices were barely heard and therefore rejected, but this time we are not backing down. I have spoken with many people from my community, some Indigenous and some not, and even those who aren't, agree that it is time for change.

I am not asking that you remove any statues or wall hangings that your school may possess of my people, I am asking that you no longer wear the minority of the people that we are on your chest as if we are only viewed as an image, and not human beings. As a leader of your school district, it would only be right to remove the Indian mascot, otherwise you are projecting unfairness, hate, and discrimination to all of the students who have and who will cycle through your school system.

Please consider not only my words but the words of the other voices that matter genuinely, and really think about the right thing to do in this situation.

Thank you,  
Sage Phillips  
Penobscot Nation

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:48 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Letter for January 8th Skowhegan public forum on Indian mascot  
**Attachments:** Dear Superintendent Brent Colbry and the MSAD.pdf

FYIU

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**From:** Arlene Jurewicz Leighton <arlene.jurewiczleighton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Letter for January 8th Skowhegan public forum on Indian mascot

**Dear Supt Brent Colbry and Members of the MSAS#54 School Board:**

As an educator I believe that retaining the Skowhegan school mascot is not honoring the indigenous people of our state. It is giving your students the misinformation that using an Indian mascot is honoring them.

I concur with Brooke Curtis, who graduated from Skowhegan Area High School in 2016 as Salutatorian in a letter she wrote to your board:

*"As I learned about all of these things and more, I realized just how much harm we are doing to the Native American community that we claim to be honoring. I realized that we are a part of the ongoing cultural genocide of Native Americans in this country, as when we project the false idea of who Native Americans are through the stereotypical depiction of the "Indian" mascot, we are erasing the truths of the Native peoples all across the nation. When we depict their spirituality/religion as mythology, and use their sacred symbols to show off our "school spirit," we are committing genocide against Native peoples and their cultures."*

Brooke Curtis (2019, Jan6)

<https://www.facebook.com/brooke.curtis.566/posts/2483721088308748>

Sadly her education on this matter happened only after she graduated from your school district.

I suggest that you consider using *"An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States"* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz as part of your curriculum. In the section about the future the author states: "How then can US society come to terms with its past? How can it acknowledge responsibility? The late Native historian Jack Forbes always stressed that while living persons are not responsible for what their ancestors did, they are responsible for the society they live in, which is a product of that past." (Dunbar-Ortiz, 2014, p. 235)

As the last school district in Maine to have an Indian mascot I believe it is time for you to acknowledge this responsibility for your students and do the right thing. Retire this mascot.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Arlene Jurewicz-Leighton

Lincolnvile, Maine

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: school mascot

FYI

**From:** Iggy <aniapsuinusgw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** school mascot

Kwe Mr. Colbry and the School Board of Skowhegan,

Taluisi Lily. N'in tleyawi Montague, Massachusetts. Me'tal-wuleyn? Hi my name is Lily. I am from Montague, Massachusetts. How are you?

I am eight years old and I go to Sheffield Elementary School. My town used to be the Indians before we moved here. My town changed their mascot in February 2017. This makes me very happy because I would not want to be a student here with people making fun of my culture. I would be scared to go to school if there was still a mascot here. People don't understand that I was L'Nu from when I was born and I am every day. This is my life and my culture it's not something make-pretend. I do not understand why people want to take my culture and make-pretend with it. It doesn't make you anything at all but a person playing dress-up. Grown-ups I think also know that it is wrong to take things that don't belong to you even if you make an excuse. I would get in big trouble if I took something that belonged to somebody else and my Mom would make me return it and say I'm sorry. How come some people are not saying sorry but are being mean instead? I don't understand this especially the mean part.

You can say Well she is just a kid what does she know? I know that I am Indian and my ancestors were Indian and my kids will be Indian because that is who we are for real not because it is the name of a sport team. You will still be who you are no matter what your sports team is called. You will be good people if you stop with using a name that belongs to real people who are alive and tell you that it is not right. Please be good people so that real Indian kids are not hurt because that is what you are doing and grown ups should care about kids. Wela'lin thank you.

Your friend,

Lily Sparks

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: Mascot forum comments  
**Attachments:** Skowhegan Mascot Comments.pdf

FYI

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**From:** M.Therese Duffy <mtherese@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Mascot forum comments

Hello,

Please find a pdf attached to this email containing my comments for the forum on the indian mascot in Skowhegan tonight.

Thank you,  
Mary-Therese Duffy, MA, LCPC  
Raymond, ME

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:42 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: retiring the Skowhegan Indian Mascot

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Carmen Gauthier <redtailali@myfairpoint.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:39 AM  
To: Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
Subject: retiring the Skowhegan Indian Mascot

Dear Mr. Colbry,

I ask that you share this email with the school board and give it due consideration.

To keep the Indian mascot is a disservice to All students of Skowhegan high school. A school's responsibility is to prepare a student to enter the adult world. Today's world is different than the world of yesterday. Today we have a global community where cultural diversity is largely valued. Cooperation is replacing competition.

For a Skowhegan high school student to be able to transition into the work world or the college world, they need to be shown the world they will soon be entering.

Both colleges and prospective employers view students' Facebook pages to help them ascertain that student's appropriateness for their campus or company. What is it saying about a student's education when their high school not only has a racial Mascot but that school openly disrespected the sincere request to remove that mascot by the group victimized? It is not a glowing endorsement of that student's character. I repeat: for Skowhegan high school to continue with an insulting mascot despite the request by the People stereotyped by that mascot is injurious to all the students of Skowhegan.

It is my sincere hope that the school board will vote to bring the high school into the current century, do what is appropriate for all and retire the Indian mascot.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen SunRising Pope  
Starks, Maine

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Cc:** Jonathan Moody  
**Subject:** FW: thoughts in case I cannot make it to the meeting

FYI

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**From:** Fran Varney <hfvarney@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:34 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: thoughts in case I cannot make it to the meeting

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Fran Varney <hfvarney@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Maryellencharles <maryellencharles@msad54.org>; Sarah Bunker <sarahbunker@msad54.org>  
**Cc:** [dixiering@msad54.org](mailto:dixiering@msad54.org) <[dixiering@msad54.org](mailto:dixiering@msad54.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 10:29:13 AM EST  
**Subject:** thoughts in case I cannot make it to the meeting

As I understand it, the school board agenda is not the town seal or the Bernard Langlais statue; it is about the use of the word "Indians", the phrase "Indian pride", and an Indian logo in school activities.

It has been repeated that many people in the community of SAD 54 respect Indians and Indian culture, and that they intend to show respect for Indians by naming their school teams the Skowhegan Indians. It also seems as if they feel it is their right, but how is it a right?

It is generally said that the current use of the Indian name and the phrase "Indian pride" does not include negative imagery or chants. It has also been acknowledged that at times in the past, negative imagery and behavior did happen.

Many people, indigenous and others, local and throughout the country, feel very strongly that the continued use of the team name "Indians" and the phrase "Indian pride" does offend a great many people and does show disrespect of indigenous people.

In short, all local indigenous people do not feel respected or honored by the use of the Skowhegan Indian name. To me, that is good reason for SAD 54 to stop using the name, just as many schools in Maine and other states have done.

The way to respect and honor indigenous people, in my opinion, is to eliminate actions that evoke past or present disrespectful imagery and behavior. .

Pride in a team should be based on their hard work, sportsmanship and achievements, not on their name..  
Pride in a school or town should not be based on an adopted name, but instead on its people and .  
good works.

Other Maine schools have stopped using "Indian" and similar team names, and it has not been claimed that they are less proud of their team as a result.

Thank you for your deliberation.

Fran Varney

## **Brent Colbry**

---

**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: STOP the use of the Indian mascot!!! And STOP wasting everyone's time

FYI

**From:** Aimee Moffitt-Mercer <aimeemoffittmercer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 29, 2018 10:25 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** STOP the use of the Indian mascot!!! And STOP wasting everyone's time

I am writing to request that the racist mascot be removed in replaced with a mascot that doesn't do harm and everyone can be proud to wear.

Sincerely,  
Aimee Moffitt

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:19 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Centenary UMC  
**Attachments:** Letter to Skowhegan School Board (1).pdf

FYI

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**From:** Rick McKinley <[rickm@neumc.org](mailto:rickm@neumc.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 1:12 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <[bcolbry@msad54.org](mailto:bcolbry@msad54.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Centenary UMC

Dear Mr. Colbry

This is a follow up email from my other work address. I was concerned that the email I sent from our church gmail address would end up in your junk folder, as it was sent to you and all of the Board members at once. My apologies if this ends up as a repeat email.

Please find attached the letter from the pastors at Centenary UMC regarding the mascot for the area schools. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Grace and peace

Rick McKinley  
Director of Congregational Development  
Teaching Pastor, Centenary UMC, Skowhegan, ME  
PCC Level Coach (ICF)  
New England Conference of the United Methodist Church  
411 Merrimack St., Suite 200  
Methuen MA 01844  
Office: 978-682-7676 ext. 210  
Cell: 781-534-2234  
[rickm@neumc.org](mailto:rickm@neumc.org)  
[scituatedrev.blogspot.com](http://scituatedrev.blogspot.com)

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## **Brent Colbry**

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:18 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: School board reading assignment  
**Attachments:** 20190102\_054831.jpg

FYI

**From:** Ann MacMichael <anniesmac@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 5:50 AM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** School board reading assignment

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:05 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: January 8th forum

FYI

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**From:** Dennis Corson <dennis.corson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 6, 2019 7:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** January 8th forum

Dear Superintendent Colbry,

My name is Dennis Corson and I was born and raised in Skowhegan! I lived in Skowhegan for 50 years, but my work has relocated me to Augusta. I have very strong feelings that we should keep the "Indians" name in our schools. I was planning to make the forum meeting on the 8th, but if weather postpones it I won't be able to make it on the 14th. Could you please make my feelings known? The name "Indians" is NOT racist. It is honoring the people who gave Skowhegan its name! We don't go to Indian Island and tell them what to call their people and sports teams. Therefore, what right do they have to tell us what we can or cannot do! This matter was voted on and decided in 2015! That should be the end of this issue!

Respectfully written,  
Dennis M. Corson  
Skowhegan Native!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

## Brent Colbry

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**From:** Brent Colbry  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:05 AM  
**To:** 54schoolboard  
**Subject:** FW: Dear civil rights team advisors letter on SAHS mascot

FYI

**From:** Lisa Savage <lsavage3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 5, 2019 1:18 PM  
**To:** Brent Colbry <bcolbry@msad54.org>; Dixie Ring <dixiering@msad54.org>; Jonathan Moody <jmoody@msad54.org>  
**Subject:** Dear civil rights team advisors letter on SAHS mascot

Dear Superintendent Colbry, Assistant Superintendent Moody, and Chair Ring:  
This letter I received in my school email might interest you, providing as it does a wider context for the "Indian" mascot retirement effort. As you can see, people around the the state are pitching in on the effort to support Skowhegan's education. I am sharing it with permission of the author.  
thank you,  
Lisa Savage

1/4/19

From

**Karin**  
**Leuthy** <[karinleuthy@gmail.com](mailto:karinleuthy@gmail.com)>

Dear civil rights team advisors,  
As you likely know, Maine schools have now replaced all but one of their Indian-themed mascots. An effort is currently underway to help convince the Skowhegan area school board to take that final and important step towards showing true respect to the wishes of Maine's Wabanaki nations by formally ending the use of the "Skowhegan Indians" name and imagery. The school board is holding a forum next week on **January 8**. I am working with a small group of allies who, in collaboration with Skowhegan residents and Penobscot Nation leaders, are helping to pull together people who would like to speak at the forum.

We are specifically looking for the following:

1. **Administrators or teachers from Wells, Old Town, Scarborough, or Winslow schools** which retired their Indian-themed mascots. We'd like them to tell the forum participants how they approached the issue in their own communities and how challenges were overcome.
2. **Coaches from Wells, Old Town, Scarborough, or Winslow schools** which retired their Indian-themed mascots. We'd like them to explain how they approached the issue of changing sports gear and equipment, and how the financial side of the change was managed.
3. **Students/alumni from Wells, Old Town, Scarborough, or Winslow schools** which retired their Indian-themed mascots. We'd like them to share their experience about the transition.

Can you help identify some folks who could speak to the areas above? They would need to attend the forum on Tuesday and arrive by 5pm to sign up for a speaking slot. We can also find volunteers to read written remarks if necessary.

Here is the ACLU's Facebook event page that can be shared far and wide: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2243457969245549/>

The effort to retire Skowhegan's Indian-themed mascot has the support of all of Maine's tribes, Gov. Janet Mills, the ACLU of Maine, and thousands of Mainers. We thank you for adding YOUR support! For a handy guide on how to discuss the issue with those who want to keep Indian-themed mascots, look here: [How to Talk About Indian-Themed Mascots](#)

Thank you!  
Karen Leuthy

--  
Lisa Savage  
***Went 2 the Bridge*** blog



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